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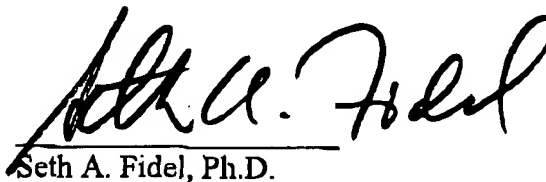
Claims 1-12 and 18-25 are pending in this application. Claims 20 and 21 are hereby amended to clarify their scope. Claim 24 is cancelled without prejudice. Claim 25 is amended to adjust its dependency and to change and clarify its scope. Support for the language added to claim 25 can be found, for example, in the sentence spanning pages 6-7 of applicants' specification. New independent claim 26 is being added by this amendment to specifically claim an embodiment of the invention that is currently undergoing clinical trials.

When this amendment is entered, there will be two independent claims and 20 total claims pending in this application.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and (re)consideration and allowance of claims 1-12, 18-23 and 25-26.

Respectfully submitted,



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